

Lighthorne Parish Council Report – 1st October 2024

1. Planning Applications

The application for Deeres Leap Solar Farm has generated a huge amount of responses from residents on the planning portal highlighting their concerns regarding the impact to the character of the landscape, the cumulation factor in particular plus flooding concerns onto the Fosse Way and neighbouring properties. I have also objected to this application, but I am concerned that residents who are most affected by such a development, if this was to be granted permission, do not receive any support or benefits as is the case in some other local authorities.

2. Winter Fuel

All pensioners on lower incomes are being encouraged to apply for Pension Credit and there is a link on the Stratford District Council website to Citizens Advice to help

3. Stratford District Council Residents Survey 2024

This has been now fully analysed and the five issues of greatest concern to residents in Wellesbourne North and Rural areas are: Road and Pavement Repairs, Public Transport, Affordable decent homes, Broadband Provision, Health services

4. Rural Housing

The District is keen to facilitate more low cost housing in rural areas to meet local needs. A housing needs survey has not been done in Lighthorne since 2013 and therefore it would be good to have up to date information from the village relating to housing need.

5. Devolution Deal

Currently the District does not benefit from a devolution deal with Government. Currently a deal is being negotiated between Warwickshire County and Government which may yield some limited benefits in respect of training provision. However, the District is concerned that there is no discussion about transport and indeed there is an element of reverse devolution as the District will lose the responsibility for administering the Shared Prosperity Funds. This will now be done by the County Council. It is not clear who will have responsibility for the Rural Fund which traditionally Stratford District has benefitted from. I am sure our Cllr Chris Mills as the county councillor will be able to keep us all updated as matters progress.

6. National Planning Policy Guidance

Much work has been done on the guidance coming from the Government in respect of Planning. Whilst Stratford District will need to take additional housing it is less clear that we will have to provide overspill housing for Birmingham and Coventry under the “Duty to Cooperate”. SDC has emphasised the importance to ensure that infrastructure is provided before new housing is created – however the district is likely to have to increase its housing building numbers substantially in the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

7. Full Council

The next Full Council meeting is being held on 14th October at 2pm.

Anne Parry

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